

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of the present application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Claims 2-7 and 9-35 were previously pending in this application. Claims 11, 16, 23 and 30 were canceled, and claims 2, 6, 10, 12-15, 17-20, 22, 24-29, 31 and 34 were amended.

The applicants thank the Examiner for his helpful comments with respect to various informalities in claims 2, 6, 10-14, 16, 19, 20, 23, 26-28, 30, 31 and 34. All the corrections were made in one manner or another, with the exception to the second suggestion in claim 2 where there appears to be confusion between line 8 and line 3. The applicants attempted to identify this informality in claim 2, but could not. The applicants also canceled claim 11 which was objected to.

With respect to the substantive rejection of independent claims 15, 22 and 29, the applicants have amended these claims to include the limitations of dependent claims 16, 23 and 30 respectively, which were canceled. These claims were objected to but were considered allowable if amended to include their base claims. The applicants have now done so.

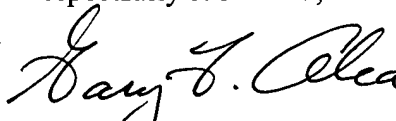
Since the independent amended claims 15, 22 and 29 are allowable, claims 17-21, 24-28 and 31-35 which are dependent upon these claims should likewise be allowable.

Conclusion

Therefore, in view of the amendments above and the remarks directed thereto, the applicants believe that all rejections be withdrawn, that claims 2-7, 9, 10, 12-15, 17-22, 24-29 and 31-35, and the case be passed to issue. If a telephone conference would in any way expedite the prosecution of the application, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at (408) 446-7687 without hesitation.

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Respectfully submitted,


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